

Parliament of the Province of the Western Cape
Second Session, Seventh Parliament
Question Paper No. 15 – 2025
Friday, 22 August 2025

Written Reply

26. Ms A P Bans to ask Ms A J D Marais, Minister of Police Oversight and Community Safety:

- (1) (a) What is the number of (i) firearms and (ii) ammunitions that have been reported missing or unaccounted for per municipalities in the province in (i) 2019, (ii) 2020, (iii) 2021, (iv) 2022, (v) 2023, (vi) 2024 and (vii) 2025 to date;
- (2) whether the municipalities conducted any investigations into these missing firearms and ammunitions; if not, why not; if so; (a) what are the relevant details and (b) what (i) remedial actions and (ii) disciplinary measures have been taken?

THE MINISTER OF POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY TO REPLY:

The request for information was sent to 24 municipalities and 5 District municipalities as set out below, requesting a response. As indicated in Table 1, 20 municipalities (and 2 District Municipalities) have responded for the request for information with a nil return.

Two municipalities responded with a positive response. Their responses are set out in tables 2-4 below.

Some municipalities indicated that they are not in the possession of any firearms and others have indicated that they do not have a law enforcement function.

There was no response from 3 municipalities, including the City of Cape Town.

Table 1: Municipalities who responded to request for information

District	Local Municipality	Nil Response received	Positive response received
City of Cape Town	City of Cape Town		
West Coast	West Coast District Municipality¹	✓	
	Matzikama Municipality	✓	
	Cederberg Municipality ²	✓	
	Berggrivier Municipality	✓	

¹ This question is not relevant for the WCDM as they do not have a law enforcement function.

² The Cederberg Municipality have indicated that they are not in possession of any Firearms.

	Saldanha Bay Municipality	✓	
	Swartland Municipality	✓	
Cape Winelands	Cape Winelands District³	✓	
	Witzenberg Municipality	✓	
	Drakenstein Municipality	✓	
	Stellenbosch Municipality		✓
	Breede Valley Municipality	✓	
	Langeberg Municipality	✓	
Overberg District	Overberg District Municipality	✓	
	Theewaterskloof Municipality	✓	
	Overstrand Municipality	✓	
	Cape Agulhas Municipality	✓	
	Swellendam Municipality	✓	
Garden Route District	Garden Route District Municipality		
	Kannaland Municipality		
	Hessequa Municipality	✓	
	Mossel Bay Municipality	✓	
	George Municipality	✓	
	Oudtshoorn Municipality	✓	
	Bitou Municipality		✓
	Knysna Municipality	✓	
Central Karoo District	Central Karoo District Municipality		
	Laingsburg Municipality	✓	
	Prince Albert Municipality		
	Beaufort West Municipality	✓	

26. (1) (a) (i)

Table 2:

Municipality: Stellenbosch	
(1) (a) What is the number of firearms that have been reported missing or unaccounted for per municipality in the province in (i) 2019, (ii) 2020, (iii) 2021, (iv) 2022, (v) 2023, (vi) 2024 and (vii) 2025 to date?	
(i) 2019	Nil
(ii) 2020	Nil
(iii) 2021	Nil
(iv) 2022	Nil
(v) 2023	Nil
(vi) 2024	Nil
(vii) 2025	Nil

³ The CWD has no firearms.

26. (1) (a) (ii)

Table 3:

Municipality: Stellenbosch	
(1) (a) What is the number of ammunitions that have been reported missing or unaccounted for per municipalities in the province in (i) 2019, (ii) 2020, (iii) 2021, (iv) 2022, (v) 2023, (vi) 2024 and (vii) 2025 to date?	
(i) 2019	Nil
(ii) 2020	Nil
(iii) 2021	Nil
(iv) 2022	Five (5) Flashbangs (Blanks) were lost by a law enforcement officer during his patrols.
(v) 2023	Five (5) rubber rounds were lost by law enforcement officers during their patrols, and disciplinary action were taken against them.
(vi) 2024	Two (2) flashbangs (blanks) and 2 rubber rounds were lost by a law enforcement officer during patrol duties. Disciplinary action was taken against the official and is in progress.
(vii) 2025	During September 2025 monthly firearm inspection, the firearm control officer found that five (5) flashbang (blanks) shotgun rounds were unaccounted for.

26 (2) (a) ...

Table 4:

Municipality: Stellenbosch	
(2) Whether the municipality has conducted any investigations into these missing firearms and ammunitions; if not, why not; if so, (a) what are the relevant details and (b) what (i) remedial actions and (ii) disciplinary measures have been taken?	
2) Whether the municipality has conducted any investigations into these missing firearms and ammunitions; if not, why not?	Nil
a) If investigations were conducted, what are the relevant details?	Nil
(b) (i) What remedial actions have been taken?	Remedial actions taken (2022/ 2023/ 2024/ 2025) The Stellenbosch Municipality enforces a comprehensive Firearms Policy

	governing the control and issuance of firearms and ammunition. Supplementary measures include: • A Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) detailing daily verification protocols. • Mandatory completion of daily firearms verification sheets by issuing officers. • Maintenance of a firearm register and occurrence book entries for all issued items and shooting incidents. • Weekly inspections by the Firearms Control Officer. • Post-incident inspections following any shooting event.
(b) (ii) What disciplinary measures have been taken?	• (2022) Disciplinary action was taken against the officer responsible for the loss of flashbangs. • (2023) Two (2) officers received final written warnings for negligent loss of rubber rounds. • (2024) The disciplinary process for the 2024 incident is ongoing. • (2025) An investigation was conducted and the matter reported to Stellenbosch SAPS. The matter is still under investigation.

26. (1) (a) (i)

Table 2:

Municipality: Bitou	
(1) (a) What is the number of firearms that have been reported missing or unaccounted for per municipality in the province in (i) 2019, (ii) 2020, (iii) 2021, (iv) 2022, (v) 2023, (vi) 2024 and (vii) 2025 to date?	
(i) 2019	Nil
(ii) 2020	Nil
(iii) 2021	Nil
(iv) 2022	Nil
(v) 2023	Nil
(vi) 2024	Nil

(vii) 2025	Nil
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26. (1) (a) (ii)

Table 3:

Municipality: Bitou	
(1) (a) What is the number of ammunitions that have been reported missing or unaccounted for per municipalities in the province in (i) 2019, (ii) 2020, (iii) 2021, (iv) 2022, (v) 2023, (vi) 2024 and (vii) 2025 to date?	
(i) 2019	Nil
(ii) 2020	Nil
(iii) 2021	Nil
(iv) 2022	Nil
(v) 2023	One of our law enforcement officers lost a extra 15-round magazine on June 26, 2023, while actively pursuing a suspect. The incident was reported to SAPS, but the case was subsequently withdrawn.
(vi) 2024	Nil
(vii) 2025	Nil

26 (2) (a) ...

Table 4:

Municipality: Bitou	
(2) Whether the municipality has conducted any investigations into these missing firearms and ammunitions; if not, why not; if so; (a) what are the relevant details and (b) what (i) remedial actions and (ii) disciplinary measures have been taken?	
2) Whether the municipality has conducted any investigations into these missing firearms and ammunitions; if not, why not?	Corrective interview was made with the officer and case was open at the Kwanokuthula SAPS Plettenberg Bay for further investigation.
a) If investigations were conducted, what are the relevant details?	Corrective interview was made with the officer and case was open at the Kwanokuthula SAPS Plettenberg Bay for further investigation and case was withdrawn CAS 27/07/2023.
(b) (i) What remedial actions have been taken?	Standard operating procedure was created and workshopped to all officers carrying firearms.

(b) (ii) What disciplinary measures have been taken?	The firearm was taken away from the officer and given back to him after the case was withdrawn.
